

REMARKS

In the Office Action of October 27, 2006, claims 1-27 were presented for examination. Of these, claims 1-27 have been allowed. Only claim 28 has been rejected. Applicant herein amends claim 28 to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention, and requests reconsideration.

Claim 28 was rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as anticipated by Goko. Upon closer inspection, however, it will be seen that claim 28 clearly must have been misunderstood, for Goko does not anticipate original claim 28; neither does it anticipate amended claim 28. Specifically, Goko does not disclose the synchronization required in claim 28. The embodiment of Fig. 4 of Goko, which is the basis for the rejection, shows only passive time delays between the input clock signal CLK and the distributed clock signals CK1, CK2 and CK3. Indeed, contrary to the Office Action, CK3 is not even a delayed clock signal. It is the identical clock signal to CLK. So, only signals CK1 and CK2 are actually delayed clock signals. If there is any delay, it is simply due to propagation delays which are very short in an integrated circuit.

The Examiner reasons that CK3 initially synchronizes with the second region by the fact that it originates from CLK. This logic is seriously flawed and incorrect. The fact that CK3 derives from CLK only means that there is a relationship which is the kind of relationship that gives rise to the need for the invention in that there is variable delay thus introduced between CK3 and CLK, meaning that there is a clock frequency ratio (here 1:1) variable about an average due to phase shifts. This passive relationship is not an act of synchronization. Moreover, the Examiner's reasoning reverses the relationship between the first and second regions specified in the claim. As illustrated in Fig. 1 of the present application, for example, and as claimed, synchronization occurs at the second region (Domain B) in response to a synchronization signal from the first region (Domain A). The Examiner thus is confused. Claim 28 has been amended to clarify such relationship (which was already recited in the words "initially synchronizing with phasing of said second region"). The original language might not have been clearly understood. No change in scope is intended. It is clear from the claim that synchronization occurs at the second region in reaction to a synchronization signal from the first region.

Accordingly, claim 28 clearly distinguishes over Goko and the rejection should be withdrawn.

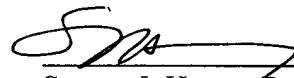
CONCLUSION

A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the telephone number listed below if this communication does not place the case in condition for allowance.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicant hereby requests any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

Respectfully submitted,

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